



Maryland

Department of the Environment

Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd Rutherford
Lieutenant Governor

Ben Crumbles
Secretary

May 4, 2017

Timothy Sharac
USEPA Headquarters
William Jefferson Clinton Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Mail Code: 6204M
Washington D.C. 20460

Tim
Mr. Sharac,

MDE requests placement of RF data flags indicating the influence of Canadian wildfire smoke on air quality be placed on the two CASTNET monitors residing in Maryland. The dates and times at the following sites are as follows:

- Beltsville (240339991):
May 25, 2016, hour 0 to May 26, 2016, hour 23
July 21, 2016, hour 0 to July 22, 2016, hour 23
- Blackwater NWR (240199991):
May 25, 2016, hour 0 to May 26, 2016, hour 23

Per the requirements to pursue data exclusion, the EPA requires flagging of data prior to submitting an exceptional event demonstration package to the EPA. Maryland is finalizing demonstrations showing the impact of two wild fires on the regulatory monitor sites. In May, fires near Fort McMurray, Alberta lofted a smoke plume which impacted ozone concentrations across the entire state of Maryland and much of the northeast US. In July, a large number of fires in aggregate across northwestern Canada lofted a smoke plume which again subsided over the northern Mid-Atlantic. Both instances were tied to ozone exceedances of the 70ppb NAAQS in Maryland. Maryland has determined exclusion of these data points will impact current and future design values and possibly the future attainment status of the state.

Sincerely,

David Krask
Manager, Ambient Air Monitoring Program